

## 2020-2021 9-12 LTRC Narrowed Consideration List

### By Genre

\*\*Note. These titles were strongly considered but ultimately were not selected for the final nominated list of 10 titles.

### Chick Lit (romance, humor, realistic)



#### 1. **American Panda** by Gloria Chao, 320 pp., 4 starred reviews

Taiwanese-American, female protagonist, family life, brothers and sisters, romance, humor, dance, MIT, contemporary, traditions, culture

**Summary:** A freshman at MIT, seventeen-year-old Mei Lu tries to live up to her Taiwanese parents' expectations, but no amount of tradition, obligation, or guilt prevent her from hiding several truths--that she is a germaphobe who cannot become a doctor, she prefers dancing to biology, she decides to reconnect with her estranged older brother, and she is dating a Japanese boy. (LOC)

**Awards:** Seventeen Magazine's Best YA Novels of 2018, Bustle's Best YA Book of 2018, PopSugar's Most Riveting YA Book of 2018, A Chicago Public Library Best YA Book of 2018, A Paste Magazine Best YA Book of 2018, Booklist's Best Debut YA Book of 2018, A Junior Library Guild Selection, YMCA's Summer Reading List for Teens

IL: UG - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 11.0

AR Quiz No. 195159

#### 2. **Chaotic Good** by Whitney Gardner, 256 pp., 0 starred reviews

female protagonist, cosplay, cartoons, online bullying, twins, moving, LGBT+, romance, bloggers, costume design, geek culture

**Summary:** Cameron wants only to complete her costume portfolio in peace, but when a trip to the local comic shop results in a hostile reception from a male employee, she returns disguised as a boy at her twin brother's suggestion and finds herself drafted into a D & D campaign. (LOC)

AR: N/A

3. **Emergency Contact** by Mary H. K. Choi, 400 pp., 2 starred reviews  
colleges, dating, friendship, new experiences, Texas, **interracial romance**, social media, male/female POV, **contemporary**, realistic, **humor**  
**Summary:** After a chance encounter, Penny and Sam become each other's emergency contacts and find themselves falling in love digitally, without the humiliating weirdness of having to see each other. (Publisher)  
IL: UG - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 12.0  
AR Quiz No. 500310
4. **Fat Girl on a Plane** by Kelly deVos, 384 pp., 0 starred reviews  
**Humor**, coming of age, body positivity, fashion, Arizona, New York, relationships, **contemporary**, empowerment, **female protagonist**  
**Summary:** N/A  
**AR:** N/A
5. **Love Scene, Take Two** by Alex Evansley, 368 pp., 0 starred reviews  
Love, actors, movies, **romance**, **contemporary**, male/female POV  
**Summary:** While filming a movie based on a bestselling book series, teen hearthrob Teddy Sharpe, twenty, falls in love with the books' author, eighteen-year-old Bennett Caldwell. (LOC)  
**AR:** N/A
6. **Now a Major Motion Picture** by Cori McCarthy, 400 pp., 0 starred reviews  
movies, actors, dating, fans, brothers and sisters, Ireland, coming of age, **female protagonist**  
**Summary:** In Ireland with her brother during the filming of a movie based on her grandmother's wildly popular Elementia trilogy, Iris, seventeen, decides to shut down production and end the annoying craze. (LOC)  
**AR:** N/A
7. **Royals (Book #1)** by Rachel Hawkins, 304 pp., 0 starred reviews  
publicity, dating, princes, Scotland, **romance**, family, **humor**, family, sisters, **female protagonist**  
**Summary:** When Daisy's older sister gets engaged to the Crown Prince of Scotland, Daisy makes the royal rule-book all her own. (LOC)  
**AR:** N/A
8. **Save the Date** by Morgan Matson, 432 pp., 1 starred review  
**humor**, weddings, brothers and sisters, family life, **romance**, **contemporary**, Connecticut, **female protagonist**  
**Summary:** When seventeen-year-old Charlie Grant's four older siblings reunite for a wedding, she is determined they will have a perfect weekend before the family home is sold, but last-minute disasters abound. (LOC)  
IL: UG - BL: 5.9 - AR Pts: 20.0  
AR Quiz No. 197253
9. **Unclaimed Baggage** by Jen Doll, 384 pp., 1 starred review  
friendship, stores, luggage, lost and found, **romance**, "clean and wholesome," Alabama, divorce, **humor**, summer, alcoholism, friendship, trust, multiple POV  
**Summary:** Told from three viewpoints, teens Doris, Nell, and Grant find friendship and the possibility of love while working in Unclaimed Baggage, a store that sells items that went missing during airline travel. (LOC)

**Awards:** A New York Times Staff Pick, An NPR Best Book of 2018, A BuzzFeed Best YA Book of 2018, A Bustle.com Best YA Book of September 2018, A Hypable YA September Must-Read, A Cosmo Best New Book of 2018, A BookRiot Fall 2018 YA Must-Read, A Mental Floss Best Book of 2018\*

**AR:** N/A

10. **Way You Make Me Feel, The** by Maurene Goo, 336 pp., 2 starred reviews

dating, high school, **Korean Americans**, **Brazilian Americans**, **racially mixed people**, love, father/daughter relationship, **humor**, California, absent mother, **contemporary**, pranks, friendship, food trucks

**Summary:** Clara Shin lives for pranks and disruption. When she takes one joke too far, her dad sentences her to a summer working on his food truck, the KoBra, alongside her uptight classmate Rose Carver. Not the carefree summer Clara had imagined. But maybe Rose isn't so bad. Maybe the boy named Hamlet (yes, Hamlet) crushing on her is pretty cute. Maybe Clara actually feels invested in her dad's business. What if taking this summer seriously means that Clara has to leave her old self behind? (LOC)

**Awards:** A Junior Library Guild selection, An NPR Best Book of 2018, A Boston Globe Best Children's Book of 2018, A We Need Diverse Books 2018 Must-Read, A TAYSHAS 2019 Reading List Book, A California Book Award Finalist

IL: UG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 10.0

AR Quiz No. 197376

11. **What If It's Us** by Becky Albertalli and Adam Silvera, 448 pp., 3 starred reviews

dating, New York City, **LGBT+**, **romance**, **contemporary**, alternating narratives, fate

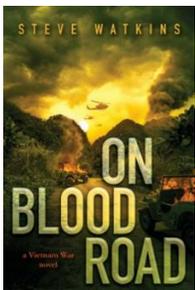
**Summary:** Told in two voices, when Arthur, a summer intern from Georgia, and Ben, a native New Yorker, meet it seems like fate, but after three attempts at dating fail they wonder if the universe is pushing them together or apart. (LOC)

**Awards:** A Teen Indie Next List Pick (Indiebound), A Best YA Book of the Year (Paste Magazine), A Best Teen Book of the Year (New York Public Library), A Best YA Book of the Year (Bustle)

IL: UG - BL: 4.0 - AR Pts: 12.0

AR Quiz No. 199080

## Historical Fiction



1. **On Blood Road (a Vietnam War novel)** by Steve Watkins, 288 pp., 0 starred review

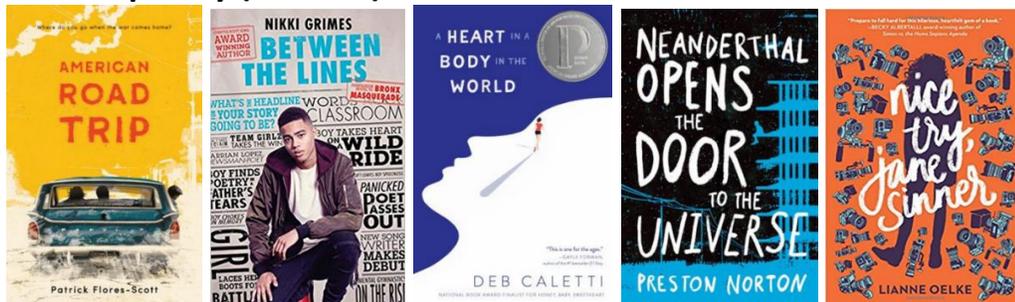
Vietnam War, Tet offensive, survival, parent and child, hostages, Ho Chi Minh trail, **male protagonist**

**Summary:** Taylor is a rebellious teenager with a habit of sneaking out to hang with his anti-war friends, so in January 1968 his mother drags him off to Saigon where his father is attached to the United States embassy; bored (and still rebellious) Taylor sneaks out of the embassy to watch the Tet celebrations, just as the war erupts all over Vietnam and there he is captured by the North Vietnamese Army and sent North as a prisoner and hostage--and during the brutal journey Taylor is forced to confront the realities of war and survival for the first time in his sheltered life. (LOC)

IL: UG - BL: 5.7 - AR Pts: 10.0

AR Quiz No. 198203

## Contemporary (realistic)



1. **American Road Trip** by Patrick Flores-Scott, 336 pp., 3 starred reviews

coming of age, PTSD, brothers, road trip, **Mexican Americans**, **romance**, suicide, tutoring, farming, veteran, Hispanic, multigenerational, **male protagonist**

**Summary:** Brothers Teodoro and Manny Avila take a road trip to address Manny's PTSD following his tour in Iraq, and to help T. change his life and win the heart of Wendy Martinez. Includes information and resources about PTSD. (LOC)

**Awards:** A Teen Vogue Best Gift Book for Teens, A Texas Tayshas List Selection, A YALSA Best Fiction List Selection

**AR:** N/A

2. **Between the Lines** by Nikki Grimes, 224 pp., 0 starred reviews

Poetry slams, family life, authorship, multiple POV, **Hispanic Americans**, **Asian Americans**, **African Americans**, urban, **verse**

**Summary:** A group of high school students grow in understanding of each other's challenges and forge unexpected connections as they prepare for a boys vs. girls poetry slam. Includes author's note about foster home care. (LOC)

IL: MG+ - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 5.0

AR Quiz No. 197240

3. **Heart in a Body in the World, A** by Deb Caletti, 368 pp., 3 starred reviews

grief, running, post-traumatic stress disorder, social action, massacre survivors, school shootings, **female protagonist**

**Summary:** Followed by Grandpa Ed in his RV and backed by her brother and friends, Annabelle, eighteen, runs from Seattle to Washington, D.C., becoming a reluctant activist as people connect her journey to her recent trauma. (LOC)

**Awards:** A Printz Honor Book

**AR:** N/A

4. **Neanderthal Opens the Door to the Universe** by Preston Norton, 416 pp., 2 starred reviews

**humor**, high school, bullying, coming of age, friendship, grief, family problems, **male protagonist**

**Summary:** Nearly a year after his brother's suicide, sixteen-year-old Cliff "Neanderthal" Hubbard gets recruited to make life better at Happy Valley High by the school's quarterback, who claims he had a vision from God. (LOC)

**Awards:** ALA 2019 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults, YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults List, 2018 Cybils Award, young Adult Fiction Nominee, Teenreads' Teen Choice Book Award 2019 Nominee, Geek Mom: Upcoming Reads for Kids Summer Reading Fun (selection, 2018), Hypable: Start summer off right with these June 2018 YA book releases! (selection), Houston Family Magazine: Summer Reading Picks (selection, 2018)

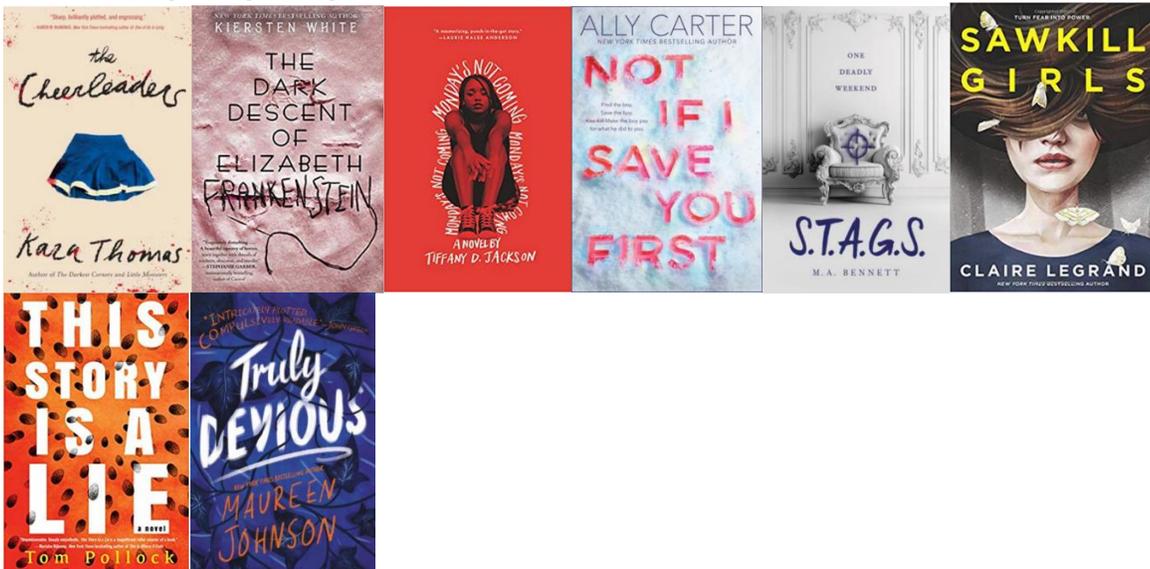
**AR:** N/A

5. **Nice Try, Jane Sinner** by Lianne Oelke, 432 pp., 1 starred review  
 diaries, reality TV, high school dropout, college, internet television, faith and religion, **humor**, **female protagonist**, sisters, Canada

**Summary:** Jane Sinner, a 17-year-old dropout, sets out to redefine herself through a series of schemes and stunts, including participating in a low-budget reality TV show at her local community college. (LOC)

**AR:** N/A

## Thriller (mystery, suspense, horror)



1. **Cheerleaders, The** by Kara Thomas, 384 pp., 0 starred reviews  
 death, cheerleaders, high school, family life, stepfather, **thriller**, abortion, car accident, mental health, female protagonist

**Summary:** As a town prepares for the anniversary of the deaths of five cheerleaders who were killed in three separate, horrific accidents, two teens uncover long-buried truths about what really happened years ago. (Publisher)

**Awards:** A YALSA Best Book for Young Adults, A Goodreads Best Young Adult Book of the Year Nominee

IL: UG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 13.0

AR Quiz No. 199225

2. **Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein, The** by Kiersten White, 304 pp., 3 starred reviews  
 monsters, science, murder, characters in literature, retelling, **female protagonist**, **historical fiction**, **science fiction**, retelling

**Summary:** The events of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein unfold from the perspective of Elizabeth Lavenza, who is adopted as a child by the Frankensteins as a companion for their volatile son Victor. (LOC)

**Awards:** AN NPR Best Book of the Year, A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year

**AR:** N/A

3. **Monday's Not Coming** by Tiffany D Jackson, 448 pp., 6 starred reviews  
**contemporary**, racism, suspense, friendship, missing teen, **African American protagonist**, **female protagonist**, dyslexia, urban, poverty, child abuse, Washington DC

**Summary:** Monday Charles is missing, and Claudia seems to be the one person who notices. They've always been inseparable, and when Monday doesn't show up for school for two weeks, Claudia knows

that something is wrong. Monday's mother refuses to give Claudia a straight answer, and her sister April is even less help. How can a teenage girl just vanish without anyone noticing that she's gone?

IL: UG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 12.0

AR Quiz No. 197298

4. **Not If I Save You First** by Ally Carter, 304 pp., 0 starred reviews \*\*also on 6-8 list\*\*

fathers and daughters, best friends, kidnapping, survival, rescues, forgiveness, Alaska, **romance**, **adventure**, suspense, wilderness, Secret Service, **female protagonist**

**Summary:** Six years ago Maddie lived in Washington D.C. with her father, a Secret Service agent assigned to the President's family, and her best friend was Logan, the President's son; but after her father was wounded in an attempted kidnapping the two of them moved to a remote cabin in Alaska and Logan never replied to her letters--but now he has suddenly turned up on her doorstep, and, while she has no attention of forgiving him for his silence, she soon realizes that first she has to save him from the winter wilderness and the men who are pursuing him. (LOC)

IL: MG+ - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 10.0

AR Quiz No. 193772

5. **S.T.A.G.S.** by M. A. Bennett, 304 pp., 0 starred reviews

social class, boarding school, secret societies, England, **female protagonist**, hunting, rich vs poor, mean girls

**Summary:** A scholarship student at prestigious St. Aidan the Great School, Greer is delighted by an invitation to an exclusive weekend of "huntin' shootin' fishin'" until she learns she and the other misfits are the prey. (LOC)

AR: N/A

6. **Sawkill Girls** by Claire Legrand, 464 pp., 5 starred reviews

**fantasy**, gothic, **LGBT+**, feminism, **female protagonist**, **romance**, **horror**

**Summary:** From the New York Times bestselling author of Furyborn comes a breathtaking and spine-tingling novel about three teenage girls who face off against an insidious monster that preys upon young women. Perfect for fans of Victoria Schwab and Stranger Things. (Publisher)

**Awards:** NAMED ONE OF YALSA'S 2019 BEST FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS, A BRAM STOKER AWARD NOMINEE, LAMBDA LITERARY AWARD NOMINEE

AR: N/A

7. **This Story Is a Lie** by Tom Pollock, 336 pp., 3 starred reviews

panic attacks, genius, missing people, brothers and sisters, twins, secrets, STEM, memory, unreliable narrator, **male protagonist**

**Summary:** Seventeen-year-old mathematical genius Peter Blankman battles his lifelong panic attacks as he tries to find his missing twin sister, Bel, and those who nearly assassinated his mother, a famous scientist. (LOC)

AR: N/A

8. **Truly Devious: A Mystery (Book 1)** by Maureen Johnson, 432 pp., 1 starred review

detective, Vermont, alternating time periods, boarding school, cold case, **LGBT+**, cliffhanger, riddles, **contemporary**, **female protagonist**

**Summary:** New at Ellingham Academy, Stevie Bell tries to solve both a murder at campus and the cold case of a double kidnapping. (AR)

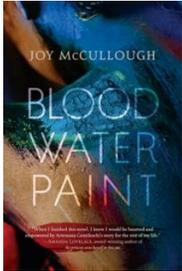
**Awards:** Publishers Weekly Best Books of 2018, Junior Library Guild Selection, 2019 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults Nomination, 2019 ALA's Best Fiction for Young Adults Nomination, Chicago Public

Library Best of the Best Books 2018, Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Young Adult Fiction 2018, 2018 Nerdy Book Club Young Adult Winner, Seventeen Best YA Book of 2018

IL: UG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 14.0

AR Quiz No. 193941

## Verse



1. **Blood Water Paint** by Joy McCullough, 304 pp., 4 starred reviews

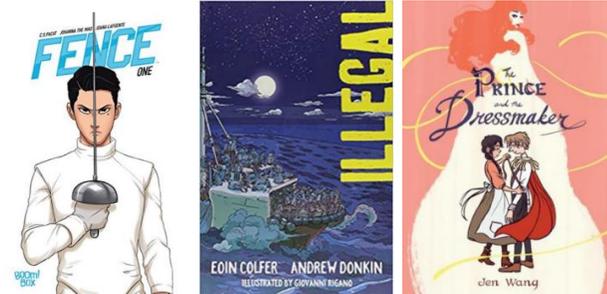
art, Italy, 1593-1652, gender roles, Italian Renaissance, feminism, **historical fiction**

**Summary:** In Renaissance Italy, Artemisia Gentileschi endures the subjugation of women that allows her father to take credit for her extraordinary paintings, rape and the ensuing trial, and torture, buoyed by her deceased mother's stories of strong women of the Bible. (LOC)

**Awards:** A William C. Morris Debut Award Finalist, 2018 National Book Award Longlist

**AR:** N/A

## Graphic



1. **Fence** Vol. 1 by C.S. Pacat, illustrated by Johanna the Mad, 112 pp., 0 starred reviews

sports, boarding school, **contemporary**, **male protagonist**, novel, **LGBT+**,

**Summary:** Nicholas Cox is determined to prove himself in the world of competitive fencing, and earn his place alongside fencing legends like the dad he never knew, but things get more complicated when he's up against his golden-boy half-brother, as well as sullen fencing prodigy, Seiji Katayama.

**AR:** N/A

2. **Illegal** by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin, illustrated by Giovanni Rigano, 144 pp., 4 starred reviews \*\*also on 6-8 list\*\*

undocumented immigrants, Africa, immigration, refugees, smugglers, **people of color**, journey, **male protagonist**

**Summary:** Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared. Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life, the same journey their sister set out on months ago. Co-author is Andrew Donkin. (AR)

**Awards:** An Amazon Best Book of 2018

IL: MG - BL: 2.5 - AR Pts: 1.0

AR Quiz No. 195538

3. **Prince and the Dressmaker, The** by Jen Wang, 288 pp., 4 starred reviews

friendship, identity, romance, art, family, **LGBT+**, Paris, royalty, fashion design, historical fiction

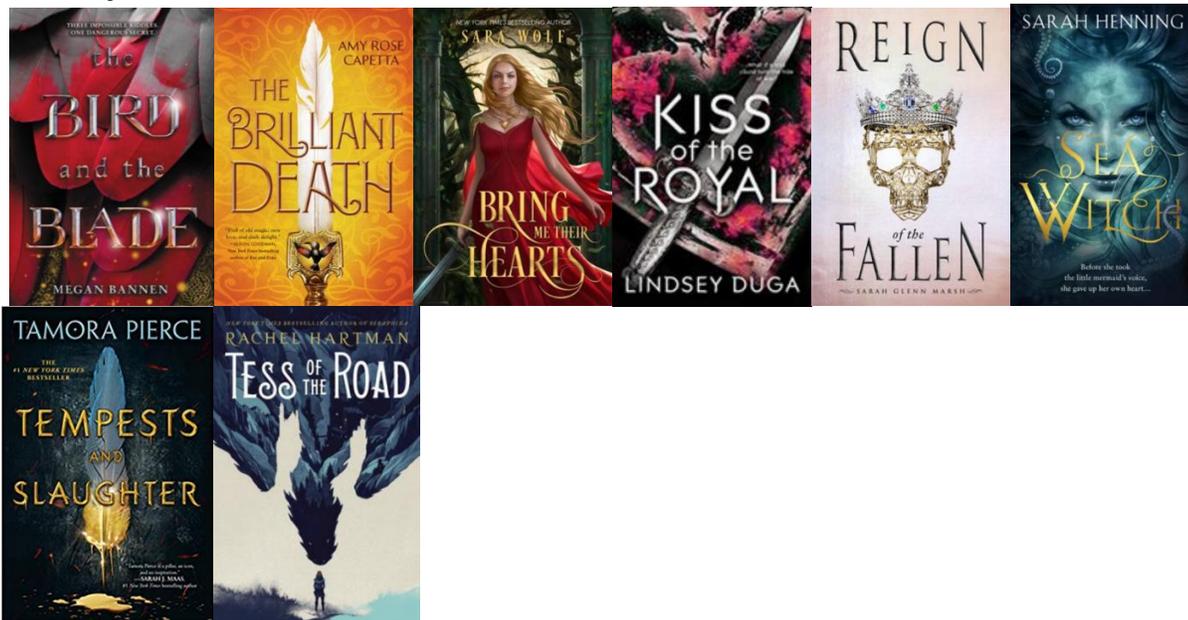
**Summary:** Prince Sebastian is looking for a bride, or rather, his parents are looking for one for him. At night, he puts on daring dresses and takes Paris by storm as Lady Crystallia. (AR)

**Awards:** A Washington Post Best Graphic Novel of 2018, A NPR Best Book of 2018, A Boston Globe Best Children's Book of 2018, A Publishers Weekly Best Books of the Year, Joint winner of the 2018 Harvey Award for Best Children's or Young Adult Book

IL: MG+ - BL: 3.0 - AR Pts: 1.0

AR Quiz No. 193710

## Fantasy



1. **Bird and the Blade, The** by Megan Bannen, 432 pp., 1 starred review

slavery, secrecy, kings, princes, rulers, riddles, mongols, historical fiction, ghosts, **Asian protagonist**, quests, **female protagonist**

**Summary:** As a slave in the Kipchak Khanate, Jinghua has lost everything: her home, her family, her freedom. She becomes an unlikely conspirator in the escape of Prince Khalaf and his father from their enemies across the vast Mongol Empire. Jinghua hatches a scheme to use the Kipchaks' exile to return home. Her feelings evolve into a hopeless love, as Khalaf seeks to restore his kingdom by forging a marriage alliance with Turandokht, the daughter of the Great Khan. All suitors must solve three impossible riddles to win her hand-- and if they fail, they die. (publisher)

AR: N/A

2. **Brilliant Death, The** by Amy Rose Capetta, 352 pp., 2 starred reviews

romance, magic, shapeshifting, secret identities, road trips, **LGBT+**, **female protagonist**

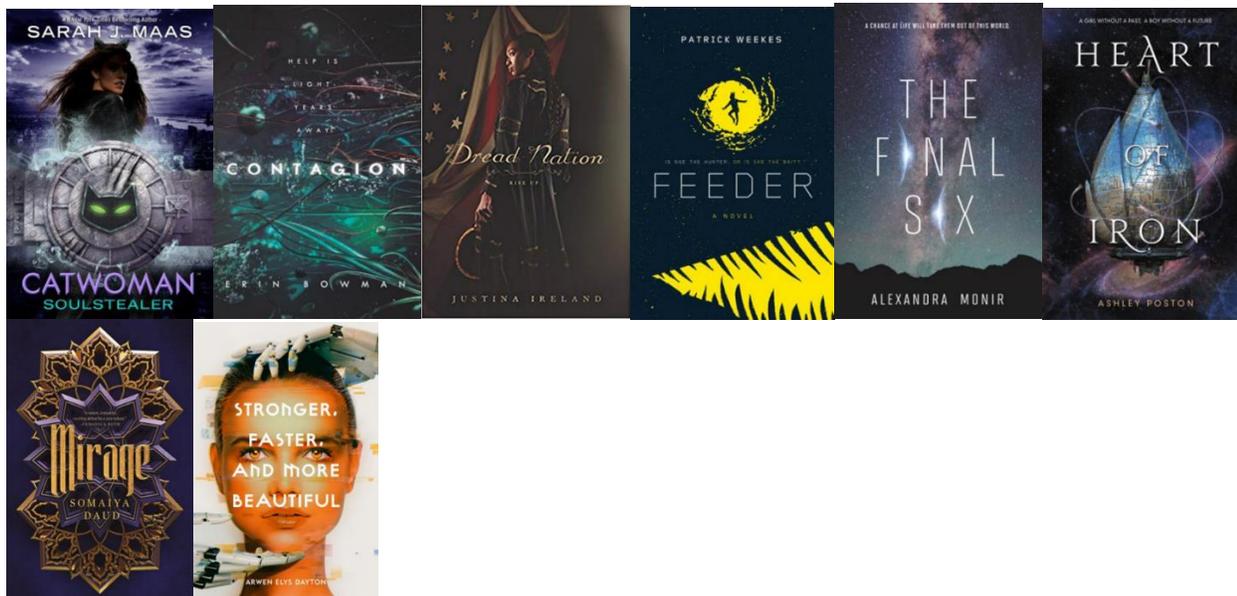
**Summary:** Teodora has always hidden her magic from her family, but after her father is poisoned, she must use it to turn herself into a boy and find the antidote to save him. (AR)

IL: UG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 13.0

AR Quiz No. 500137

3. **Bring Me Their Hearts (Book #1)** by Sara Wolf, 400 pp., 0 starred reviews  
 Romance, slavery, immortalism, witches, female protagonist, magic, soldiers, murder  
**Summary:** N/A  
**Awards:** A Goodreads "YA Best Book of the Month", An Amazon "Best Book of the Month: Science Fiction & Fantasy"  
**AR:** N/A
4. **Kiss of the Royal** by Linsey Duga, 400 pp., 0 starred reviews  
 action, romance, female protagonist, wars and battles, magic  
**Summary:** Princess Ivy has one goal--end the war against the Forces of Darkness. Ivy's magic is more powerful than any other Royal's, but she needs a battle partner who can help her harness it. Prince Zach's unparalleled skill with a sword should make them an unstoppable pair--if only they could agree on ... well, just about anything. But Ivy's magic can only fully unlock with Zach's help, and he's not exactly cooperating. Zach believes Ivy's magic is dangerous. Ivy believes they'll never win the war without it. Two warriors, one goal, and the fate of their world on the line. But the more they argue, the more they fall for each other. And only one of them can be right. (Publisher)  
**AR:** N/A
5. **Reign of the Fallen (Book #1)** by Sarah Glenn Marsh, 384 pp., 1 starred review  
 death, monsters, change, magic, LGBT+, female protagonist, zombies  
**Summary:** Odessa, a master necromancer in Karthia, where nothing has changed in 200 years, uncovers a disturbing conspiracy and must fight alongside her fellow mages against terrifying, bloodthirsty Shades and their creator. (LOC)  
 IL: MG+ - BL: 5.7 - AR Pts: 15.0  
 AR Quiz No. 197244
6. **Sea Witch** by Sarah Henning, 368 pp., 0 starred reviews  
 Little Mermaid retelling, high fantasy  
**Summary:** Everyone knows what happens in the end: a mermaid, a prince, a true love's kiss. Before that young siren's tale, there were three friends: one feared, one royal, and one already dead. (AR)  
 IL: MG+ - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 12.0  
 AR Quiz No. 195887
7. **Tempests and Slaughter (The Numair Chronicles, Book One)** by Tamora Pierce, 480 pp., 0 starred reviews  
 magic, healers, sword & sorcery, friendship, male protagonist, slavery, coming of age, gods  
**Summary:** Arram Draper, Varice Kingsford, and Ozorne Tasikhe forge a bond of friendship that sees them through many changes as student mages at Imperial University of Carthak. (LOC)  
 IL: UG - BL: 5.4 - AR Pts: 20.0  
 AR Quiz No. 195244
8. **Tess of the Road** by Rachel Hartman, 544 pp., 4 starred reviews  
 medieval kingdom, gender roles, self-reliance, journey, dragons, female protagonist, #metoo, coming of age, feminism, ADD, abuse, sisters, road trip, trauma, twins, adventure, grief  
**Summary:** Tess Dombegh journeys through the kingdom of Goredd in search of the World Serpents and finds herself along the way (Publisher)  
**Awards:** NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR, BOSTON GLOBE, The Chicago Public Library, and KIRKUS REVIEWS  
 IL: UG - BL: 6.4 - AR Pts: 22.0  
 AR Quiz No. 195164

## Science Fiction (adventure, dystopia)



### 1. **Catwoman: Soulstealer** by Sarah J. Maas, 384 pp., 0 starred reviews

DC comics, superheros, friendship, **adventure**, **female protagonist**

**Summary:** Selina Kyle's coming-of-age-story as she claws her way to the top of Gotham City's criminal underbelly and becomes Catwoman (Publisher)

IL: UG - BL: 5.7 - AR Pts: 14.0

AR Quiz No. 198332

### 2. **Contagion (Book #1)** by Erin Bowman, 432 pp., 1 starred review

**thriller**, **horror**, **adventure**, space travel, disease, zombies, survival, mystery, multiple POV

**Summary:** After receiving a distress call from a drill team on a distant planet, a skeleton crew is sent into deep space to perform a standard search-and-rescue mission. When they arrive, they find the planet littered with the remains of the project--including its members' dead bodies. As they try to piece together what could have possibly decimated an entire project, they discover that some things are best left buried--and some monsters are only too ready to awaken. (Publisher)

**Award:** Edgar Award Nominee for Best Young Adult Mystery

**AR:** N/A

### 3. **Dread Nation** by Justina Ireland, 464 pp., 6 starred reviews

alternate history, American Civil War, zombies, racism, adventure, **African American**, boarding school, **LGBT+**, **female protagonist**, Baltimore, slavery

**Summary:** Jane McKeene was born days before the dead began to walk the Gettysburg battlefields, derailing the War Between the States and changing the nation forever.

IL: UG - BL: 6.0 - AR Pts: 17.0

AR Quiz No. 197249

### 5. **Feeder** by Patrick Weekes, 304 pp., 0 starred reviews

monsters, ability, brothers and sisters, orphans, multiple POV, diverse protag, **LGBT+**, secrets

**Summary:** Lori Fisher hunts monsters, aided by an interdimensional creature called Handler, but when she stumbles across the Nix, a kidnapped group of mutant teens, she becomes the hunted. (LOC)

**AR:** N/A

**6. Final Six, The** (Book #1) by Alexandra Monir, 352 pp., 0 starred reviews

survival, space colony, contests, interplanetary voyages, astronauts, Houston, dystopia, **Iranians**, climate change

**Summary:** Naomi, an Iranian-American science genius is surrounded by strangers all competing for one of the six slots to travel to Jupiter's moon, she finds a friend in Leo, an Italian championship swimmer, as the training tests their limits. (AR)

IL: UG - BL: 6.4 - AR Pts: 13.0

AR Quiz No. 199710

**7. Heart of Iron (Book #1)** by Ashley Poston, 480 pp., 1 starred review

**romance, adventure, fantasy**, intergalactic drama, Anastasia Romanove retelling, **LGBT+**, starships, androids, friendship, multiple POV, technological futurism

**Summary:** Seventeen-year-old Ana is a scoundrel by nurture and an outlaw by nature. Found as a child with a sentient android, Ana was saved by a space captain and the crew she now calls family. (AR)

**Awards:** A 2019 Rainbow Book List Selection

IL: UG - BL: 5.4 - AR Pts: 15.0

AR Quiz No. 196195

**8. Mirage (Book #1)** by Somaiya Daud, 320 pp., 2 starred reviews

**Romance**, speculative fiction, kidnapping, politics, imposters, epic, racism, **Moroccan, African**

**Summary:** In a world dominated by the Vathek empire, Amani is a dreamer. Her life changes when she becomes a prisoner at the royal palace. (AR)

**Awards:** SLJ Best Book of the Year, ALA Booklist Top 10 Scifi/Fantasy Book for Youth, ALA's Best Fiction for Young Adults List, Children's Africana Book Award Honor Book for Older Readers  
ABA IndieNext Pick, Junior Library Guild Selection, Amazon Editors' Favorite Books of Fall

IL: UG - BL: 5.7 - AR Pts: 12.0

AR Quiz No. 198257

**9. Stronger, Faster, and More Beautiful** by Arwen Elys Dayton, 384 pp., 5 starred reviews

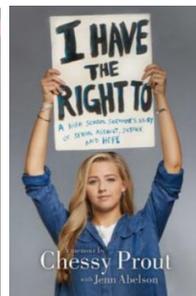
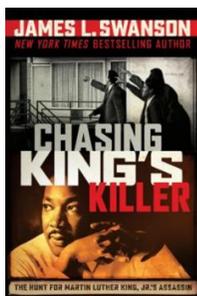
human beings, perfection, *Black Mirror*, linked stories, speculative, genetic manipulation, **LGBT+**, beauty standards, dystopian

**Summary:** Six interconnected stories that ask how far we will go to remake ourselves into the perfect human specimens, and how hard that will push the definition of human (publisher)

**Awards:** A Wall Street Journal Best Book of 2018, A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2018

**AR:** N/A

## Nonfiction



**1. Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card** by Sara Saedi, 288 pp., 4 starred reviews

**Iranian Americans**, Immigrants, Illegal aliens, California, high school, **memoir**, **female POV**

**Summary:** In San Jose, California, in the 1990s, teenaged Sara keeps a diary of life as an Iranian American and her discovery that she and her family entered as undocumented immigrants. (LOC)

IL: UG - BL: 7.5 - AR Pts: 11.0  
AR Quiz No. 195046

**2. Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Assassin** by James L. Swanson, 384 pp., 4 starred reviews \*\*also on 6-8 list\*\*

MLK Jr assassination, crime, activism, civil rights, [African Americans](#), [male POV](#)

**Summary:** James Earl Ray and Martin Luther King, Jr. had two very different life journeys -- but their paths fatally collide when Ray assassinates the world-renown civil rights leader. This book provides an inside look into both of their lives, the history of the time, and a blow-by-blow examination of the assassination and its aftermath (Publisher)

**Awards:** A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year, A Kirkus Reviews Best Young Adult Book of the Year

IL: UG - BL: 7.6 - AR Pts: 7.0  
AR Quiz No. 193762

**3. I Have the Right To: A High School Survivor's Story of Sexual Assault, Justice, and Hope** by Chessy Prout (with Jenn Abelson), 416 pp., 2 starred reviews

sex crimes, rape victims, high school students, [women](#), New Hampshire, St Paul's School

**Summary:** N/A

**Awards:** A New York Public Library Best Book, An SLJ Best Nonfiction Book

**AR:** N/A